

Filed for intro on 04/09/97

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 174  
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. William Simon Sharpe on his outstanding contributions to Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is only fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those outstanding persons whose dedication and hard work have had a significant impact on Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. William S. Sharpe is one such remarkable citizen who is most assuredly deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, the son of William and Sarah Ellen Sharpe, William Sharpe graduated from Windber High School in Windber, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from high school, William Sharpe worked for the Berwind-White Coal Mining Company as a shipping payroll clerk; he later went to work for the Central Vending Machine Company; and

WHEREAS, in 1940, William Sharpe elected to serve his country in the armed forces and volunteered for military service in the U.S. Army; and

WHEREAS, William Sharpe applied for officer training school in 1942, and after three months of officer training, William Sharpe was commissioned a Second Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, he began his career as a commissioned officer in the 20th Infantry Regiment, Company M of the Sixth Infantry Division; and

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WHEREAS, he was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant, and shortly thereafter, he was engaged in combat at the Battle of Lone Tree Hill in New Guinea, where he was wounded in action; and

WHEREAS, because of his valiant efforts, Lieutenant Sharpe was awarded the Purple Heart and the army's third highest decoration, the Silver Star; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the New Guinea campaign, Lieutenant Sharpe was assigned to the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, at the battle of Luzon, he was promoted to the rank of Captain while remaining Commander of Company M; and

WHEREAS, because of his heroic achievements at the Battle of Munoz, Captain Sharpe was awarded the Army Bronze Star; and

WHEREAS, Captain William Sharpe also earned the Combat Infantry Badge, the Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal, the Philippines Medal and the Philippines Liberation Medal; and

WHEREAS, while serving in the Philippines, William Sharpe met his future wife, 2nd Lieutenant Betty Maxine Laporte, who was serving as an Army nurse in Manila; and

WHEREAS, after two years and seven months of courageous service in the U.S. Army, William Sharpe returned to the United States; and

WHEREAS, after being discharged from the service, William entered college at the University of Pittsburgh in January 1947; and

WHEREAS, William Sharpe was joined in holy matrimony with Betty Maxine Laporte on April 11, 1947, and the couple's happy union produced three children; and

WHEREAS, William Sharpe has always been an active participant in community activities, such as Veterans' Day programs and working the election booth on Election Day; and

WHEREAS, he has been an active and devout member of the Centenary United Methodist Church for the past 36 years; he has served the church in many capacities, including Chairman of Pastor Parish Relations Committee, Worship Leader, Chairman of Administrative

Board, Sunday School Teacher, President of the United Methodist Men's Board of Trustees and Associate Lay Leader; and

WHEREAS, an avid tennis player, William Sharpe placed second in his age group at the Tennessee Senior Olympics; he has also coached his children and grandchildren in numerous tennis tournaments; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sharpe has also trained and bred horses for over 40 years, and has coached his children and grandchildren in several local horse shows; and

WHEREAS, his countless accomplishments aside, William Sharpe is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife Betty; his three children, Sarah Ann Woolwine, Mary Lisbeth Stout and William Keith Sharpe; and six grandchildren, Nathan Ashley Woolwine, Benjamin Seth Woolwine, Sarah Kathryn Woolwine, William Clayton Stout, Hannah Lisbeth Stout and Sarah Taylor Sharpe; and

WHEREAS, it is not often that a community is blessed with such a truly talented and giving individual as William Sharpe, who, through his dedication to the nation he loves and the people he treasures, has had an extraordinary influence on his community and on Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend William Simon Sharpe on his many outstanding contributions to his community and to the good people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.